



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 11/08/2006

Approved

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
Minutes
School Facilities Working Group
Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Present: Nate Levenson, Supt. of Schools - Chair
 Brian Sullivan, Town Manager
 Stephen Gilligan, Town Treasurer
 Sue Mazzearella, APS
 Alan Tosti, Finance Committee
 Michael Ruderman, Thompson Rep.
 Clarissa Rowe, Selectwoman
 Martin Thrope, School Committee
 Alan Brown, Stratton Principal
 Michael McCabe, Thompson Principal
 Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning
 Charles Foscett, Finance Committee
 William Shea, Perm. Town Building Committee
 Ron Spangler, Stratton Rep.

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – School Committee Room – 6th Floor – AHS

1. Sue Mazzearella reviewed a summary of the new school construction rules. A printed summary was provided to those in attendance.
2. Sue Mazzearella confirmed that statements of interest will be filed shortly for the Thompson, Stratton, and High School.
3. Discussion focused on what funds are currently available for school construction from the April 2000 debt override.

Two different approaches were discussed. The Department of Revenue approach indicates that \$34,500,000 was approved by Town Meeting, leaving approximately \$12,000,000 available. The "taxpayer commitment" approach suggests the tax levy was raised by \$12,765,000 (37% of \$34,500,000), which leaves approximately \$4.5 million of the tax levy. Actual potential construction would vary based on state reimbursement.

Steve Gilligan will review and finalize the figures. Funds from a prior debt exclusion may also be available.

4. New construction costs were discussed. Based on history and available data, a working range for a new elementary school was set at \$13,000,000 - \$15,000,000.

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5. To complete the report for Town Meeting, the committee discussed creating details (words & spreadsheets) for four options.

- 1.) Wait for state reimbursement.
- 2.) Wait for state reimbursement, but invest for capital upgrades/repairs.
- 3.) Rebuild Thompson & Stratton, assuming the Department of Revenue spending limits apply.
- 4.) Rebuild Thompson & Stratton, assuming the “taxpayer commitment” level of spending apply.

6. Next steps include:

- a. Determine what is needed to bring the Thompson and Stratton to educational equity. (Nate Levenson)
- b. Get quote for cost of engineering/architectural study to rehab/upgrade Thompson and Stratton. (Sue Mazzarella)
- c. Update available funds chart. (Steve Gilligan)
- d. Determine if collateral material can be submitted with statements of intent. (Sue Mazzarella)
- e. Determine threshold for rehab before needing to meet new building code. (Brian Sullivan)
- f. Calculate borrowing costs. (Steve Gilligan)
- g. Determine how/why towns are building without state approval. (Sue Mazzarella)

7. Next meeting:

- Four scenarios (words & numbers) via email by 12/8/06.
- Next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee room, AHS.

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Submitted by:

Nate Levenson